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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1916.

MUNICIPAL DAIRY AGAIN

The Tri-state Milk Commission, representing Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware, listened yesterday at Philadelphia to Dr. J. N. Rosenberger, dairy farm adviser to the Pennsylvania department of agriculture. Dr. Rosenberger, one of the real dairy authorities and dairy economic experts of the country, advocated a municipal dairy as the means to eliminate the worst wastes in milk purveyance.

Dr. Rosenberger and other speakers followed with singular fidelity the line of reasoning which the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' Association adopted in advocating recently this same solution. The analysis of the wastes in the milk business, both on the farm in production, and in the city in distribution, was an analysis thoroughly familiar to the people of Washington, because it was presented here several months ago. The tri-state commission seems to have added nothing to the experience and argument presented by the milk producers of this territory. It has, however, emphasized and re-enforced the demand for a municipal establishment in the interest of greater efficiency. The Maryland-Virginia producers, after detailed study of the possibilities of the municipal dairy and a co-operative dairy owned by the producers, have committed themselves to the municipal plan. The executive committee of the organization has taken this view by unanimous voice. Wherever thorough, disinterested inquiry into milk conditions is brought to a logical conclusion, the substance of this plan is brought forward at the end.

A CATTLE KING'S ROMANCE

Henry Miller, immigrant boy from Germany, was a butcher's apprentice in New York till he saved money enough to get to California in the early gold days. He went in for land and cattle rather than mining, and became the greatest landowner in America. He owned 800,000 acres in California, 500,000 acres in Oregon, vast tracts in Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. At one time the concern he controlled owned 80,000 cattle and 100,000 sheep.

A few weeks ago Miller died in California, practically penniless. It falls out that three years ago, being then eighty-eight years old, he decided practically his entire property to his daughter, in order to avoid inheritance tax when he should die.

Perhaps the stratagem will succeed. Surely the spirit of it deserves to be improved. The man who can come here an alien youth, get an empire practically given to him from the public domain, and then so lightly regard his obligation to society as to beat it out of its dues when he sees the end of his marvelously successful life ahead, is not precisely the sort of citizen this country most needs.

IS NEW YORK PROVINCIAL?

Sydney Brooke, English author, was in New York election day. He saw Broadway whoop it up for Hughes when it thought he was elected, and go to bed satisfied that the election was over when the returns from Manhattan, Jersey, and Illinois were at hand. It awoke the next day to learn its error. Mr. Brooke concludes that New York is hopelessly provincial, thus lining up with a great body of Americans who in latter years have vastly enjoyed the discovery, which somebody made for them, that this was what ailed New York. Quite the commonest remark about New York is that it doesn't know there is any United States west of the Hudson.

Perfectly good reading; but it doesn't see with the facts. New York was no worse fooled on election night than Washington, or any other town. The newspapers of the provinces went wrong early in the night, "announcing" or "conceding" the election of Mr. Hughes, just as did those of New York. People who had wagered on Wilson, confident that they knew American public opinion well enough to justify the change, went to bed discomfited with themselves; they thought they had guessed it all wrong. It isn't easy to back one's faith against the mathematics of the bulletin board when it's an one-way.

New York is not entitled to be told it's knowing nothing about there is a mighty large, intelligent American wanting to learn what's going on in New York, where to apply in that that's the best information

about a wide variety of American subjects: railroad earnings, coppers, crops, Socialism, literature, art—pretty much anything. New York knows America, but not anybody in New York knows all about all America. New York has its information indexed, subdivided, filed away, available. It has the best information there is, and the most of it, if one just knows where to find it; and a particular kind of information is likely to be in the possession of the New Yorkers who have the most use for that kind.

As to being provincial, the discovery that a Presidential election can be won without New York will merely waken up the town and counteract any tendency it may have to be provincial.

CABRERA AND THE MEXICAN SITUATION

At the time when the International Joint Commission on Mexican affairs was named, The Times pointed out that Mr. Luis Cabrera was a member of that body was altogether likely to prove an obstacle to any satisfactory adjustment of relations between the two countries. It was pointed then that Mr. Cabrera would be found to have ideas of his own relating to his program for handling the financial reorganization of Mexico that would not be regarded with favor by the American Government.

Recent events have in impressive fashion demonstrated the accuracy of this analysis. Mr. Cabrera is credited with introducing the one element of antagonism to an agreement that promised at least the chance of a settlement. Moreover, he appears, though he is but one of three on the Mexican side of the commission, to entertain so large a measure of the first chief's confidence that he is able to lay down terms and make them represent the purposes of his government.

It occurs to the disinterested observer that an inquiry into the fiscal policy of Mr. Cabrera, and his plans for the future, might illumine the reasons for his present attitude. If Mr. Cabrera is interposing conditions which are calculated to make adjustments impossible, the Washington Government should understand precisely why he is doing so. If he is able, by the use of his "liberum veto," to enforce his own terms now, it may easily happen that in future his conditions will, when they are fully understood, be such as to nullify any agreement now reached. Mr. Cabrera has looked from the beginning as the most inharmonious element in this conference. He looks now like the threatening factor that may wreck the entire effort. If he is going to make his attitude, some time in future, so objectionable as to compel Washington to demand his retirement or the abandonment of his projects, that demand might as well be made now as hereafter, provided sound reasons can now be developed in support of such a demand.

FIGHTING HIGH PRICES

Reports of the garbage collectors of the District indicate that the high cost of living may not be an unmixing evil. For the last two months, and thus far in November, the quantity of garbage collected here has run from 20 to 25 per cent in quantity behind the amount collected in the same period last year. There also has been a marked falling off in quality—that is, in richness and fat content.

All of which means that Washington housewives, in advance of the war on waste planned by one woman's club, have taken up the cudgel against the kitchen leaks, and are getting full value of the foods they purchase.

Every treatise on dietetics complains that Americans consume too much meat, eggs, and other rich and fatty foods—the commodities mainly affected by present high prices. One domestic science expert has asserted it is possible, losing nothing of variety and nourishment, to keep the family budget within the amount expended a year or two ago.

Refusal of housewives to stop buying the foodstuffs that are high priced, or to buy them in lesser quantities, is a characteristic American trait. If the high prices force waste to buy intelligently and avoid waste, the cost of living may be worth the price in experience.

MOVIE CENSORSHIP DIFFICULTIES

The Monday Evening Club deserves credit for bringing to Washington last evening a group of men qualified to talk, from years of experience and study, about the problems of motion picture censorship. After all the discussion of these men and of Washington social workers, there still are a few facts about the general principles of censorship which need to be remembered.

In every argument about motion picture censorship there always is much talk about freedom of the press and freedom of speech. Now, to those who think in facts and not in words, these outstanding realities must be apparent:

The press does not have unlimited freedom to print what it desires. It is restrained by libel laws against printing that which would be hurtful to individuals; it is stopped by postal regulations against printing

much that would offend good taste and good morals.

Similar restrictions prevail in respect to book publication. Efforts to purchase a certain recent novel of acknowledged literary merit, written in serious vein by a thoughtful author, will be met with the announcement that this book has been withdrawn from publication. It cannot be bought, it cannot be borrowed in libraries.

As for the freedom of speech—ask the promoters of the Birth Control League whether speech is free and untrammelled.

This is not an argument for censorship. The weight of thoughtful opinion seems to be against it. But these facts ought to be considered in discussing the problem. Motion pictures themselves are now under a censorship. Cities may evade calling it that by placing power in the hands of the police or of a license commissioner. But it amounts to the same thing.

Washington has a censorship. Recently a rule was passed here against nudity on the screen. Even the National Board of Censorship has changed its name to the National Board of Review. The board now terms its work "editorial cooperation."

The hardest task of all is to pierce through a maze of words and start on a premise of fact.

Don Marquis' Column

Reducing the Soul.
Hundreds of people have written millions of words during the past three or four years on HOW TO REDUCE YOUR FLESH.

A subject at least equally important has been conspicuously neglected—HOW TO REDUCE YOUR SOUL.

We encounter them on every hand: Fat Souls, Swollen Souls, Heavy Souls, Wheezy Souls, Souls that Need Exercise, Sluggish Souls, Bloated Souls, Flabby Souls.

Gorged with the fats and sugars of sentimentality, some of them are, till they waddle when they try to walk, like a childless spinster's pet dog.

Let us digress long enough to admit that when we wrote "childless spinster" we were hurried. . . . But let us not prolong the digression sufficiently to explain our reasons for allowing this slip of the pen to stand.

How, then, shall we reduce the Obese Soul?

First, shall we not endeavor to discover just what it is that makes the Soul obese?

Some Years Ago.

Some fifteen or eighteen years ago, when we wore our hair long, and sported a big flabby bow tie, and were an art student, and pulled quite seriously all the stuff we josh the Fothergill Finches for pulling now, we belonged to a little group of Serious Drinkers who used to tank up on Omar. In one year we put twenty-seven astral pounds onto our Soul by Bending the Psychic Elbow. Slush! Slush!—day and night—there was nothing to it!—we were all of us regular dare devils in those days!

That Omarian alcohol used to be a great inducer of fatty degeneration of the Soul; the Fitzgerald translation was sweet enough, but the Le Gallienne version was so saccharine that it turned the liver to fudge.

Keat's "Endymion" should also be avoided, except by lean spirits. It is not only honeyed, but a bit syrupy in spots. His Odes, however, never cloy. Recently we have heard of a young female Soul, of a good family, that put on twelve pounds in spite of personal and ancestral strait lacing, with one perusal of John Galsworthy's "The Dark Flower." Mr. Galsworthy is an exceptionally good chef; he makes one forget that "The Dark Flower" is confectionery, and so one eats with a better conscience. But this gentleman makes some very good soup pickles, too; and one meal a bit too sweet and a little too scented should not be held up against him.

Such an adjustment will likewise be beneficial to the departments in that the number of employees need not be increased for some time to come to take care of the increasing volume of business; present housings will meet future requirements for a longer period, etc.

It is believed that a large majority of the Government clerks will welcome such an opportunity of working an extra hour for an extra hour's pay. Of course, it is entirely out of mind to think of a grant and just employer, such as Uncle Sam, exacting an extra hour's labor without due compensation.

While this would not be an increase of salary in the ordinary sense, it would increase the earning capacity of each employee by about one-seventh of his present salary, which is certainly something to be considered these days.

One other important point is favor of such a plan lies in the removal of the Government clerk from the so-called privileged class of employees. He would then be on an eight-hour basis, the same as his brother-workers elsewhere, and as a direct result of this change legislation looking to the improvement of his civil service retirement plan, will be greatly simplified, since the cry throughout the country against the privileged Government clerk will at once be hushed.

JOHN C. MURPHY.
Washington, Nov. 20, 1916.

High Divorce Mark.

CHICAGO, Nov. 21.—One divorce to every six marriages is the record Cook county hung up in October.

LETTERS TO TIMES ON CURRENT TOPICS

Discussions By Readers on Various Matters of Public Interest.

Opera, "The Pearl Fishers," Was Sung Here for First Time on May 17, 1895.
To the Editor of THE TIMES:
I noticed the following in The Times:

"Washington can supplement a statement made from the New York Metropolitan Opera House which announces that their opening opera of the season, 'The Pearl Fishers,' by Bizet, has never before been sung in its entirety in this country."

"The Pearl Fishers" was given in Washington by the Hinrichs Grand Opera Company some twenty years ago. A libretto for this organization was published in New York in 1893 by Herman Grau. It is probable that the performance here, at the old Academy of Music, was within a few years of that date.

"The Pearl Fishers" was sung by the Hinrichs Grand Opera Company, for the first time in Washington, at the Academy of Music on Friday night, May 17, 1895.

A. I. MUDD.
Washington, Nov. 20, 1916.

Declares Government Employees Are Entitled to Saturday Half-Holiday Under the Law.
To the Editor of THE TIMES:
May I invite attention to certain errors which often appear in the newspapers of this city when reference is made to Saturday half-holidays for Government employees.

These articles invariably contain statements to the effect that the heads of certain departments contemplate "granting" Saturday half-holidays to employees of the Government on duty in Washington for the entire year, purporting to grant relief, and leaving the impression of a gift or concession, when, as a matter of fact, the law grants it in positive terms (31 Stat., 1405, as amended by 32 Stat., 543).

The act of March 15, 1898 (30 Stat., 316), requires of all clerks and other employees of the Executive Department not less than seven hours of labor each day "except Sundays and days declared public holidays by law or Executive order"; therefore, the heads of departments are without authority to permit employees to work fewer hours than fixed by statute.

They may, however, by a special statutory provision, "extend the hours of labor" without additional compensation, provided the extension be made in the manner that the law permits. The only method of extension which the law permits is "by special order, stating the reason," for the extension (30 Stat., 316). An extension by any other method is an illegal extension.

In fixing holidays Congress has included "every Saturday after 12 o'clock noon" (31 Stat., 1405), putting them in the identical class as to being "holidays" as July 4, Christmas, etc., but, on January 9, 1904, Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States, by a general order, undertook to abolish all Saturday half-holidays, effective July 1, 1904. During that period, the order read, department heads may close at 1 p. m.

The order mentioned did not comply with the statutes, because it was general in character instead of special, and gave no reason for the so-called extension. In other words, it was an attempt to abolish certain designated holidays by a sweeping order without any reason assigned.

President Roosevelt, without authority to issue such an order; nevertheless, he issued it, and the practice continued except for a slight change as to date.

In view of these facts, may I suggest that when reference is made to the Washington Founding Home today, cherished ecstatic memories of ice cream, cake, and the hundreds of visitors who came to their tea yesterday afternoon.

The big parlors could not have been more festive if some philanthropic soul had given a huge birthday party for the institution. To begin with, each one of the sixty children wore his or her best frock. Most of the little girls wore white, with crisp, outstanding skirts and huge butterfly bows that bobbed violently. The little boys were in Oliver Twist suits with pink or blue trousers and white blouses.

On the veranda, where refreshments were served, squeals of youthful delight rang out from time to time, as some kindly patron treated a batch of children to stripped ice cream and angel cake.

Nearly all the visitors accepted the invitation to go upstairs, where a row of happy babies were waiting to see them. Though their youth precluded the possibility of receiving callers downstairs with the young men and women as old as five years, their chuckles of greeting made every one feel at home.

Some of the babies about the only one too ill to join in the jollification. His cough has persisted so long that he has not gained as a healthy little boy should. Indeed, no one would think to look at him that he is over two months old. He is scarcely larger than a new-born baby, and his gasping cough is growing fainter as his small reserve of vitality ebbs away.

Chances of Recovery.
Mrs. J. Lawrence Solly, head of the home, looks very grave as she speaks of the little fellow's chances of recovery.

"The tea yesterday lasted from 3 to 7. By supper time at 5 o'clock some of the tiniest children were nodding, and it was only a few who stayed up to say good-by to the last visitors, long after the usual bedtime."

A substantial amount was raised by the sale of refreshments, fancy articles, candy, and flowers. This will be devoted to paying the expenses of recovery.

The following program was provided: Selection, Hakeman's orchestra; vocal solo, Charles Meyers; specialty, L. S. Goldsmith and W. E. Fookes; pipe organ solo, Rolla G. Onyon; address, Rev. James Sherar Montgomery; selection, Hakeman's orchestra; remarks by A. R. Onyon, master Pentalfa Lodge, and W. S. Jermine, grand master.

A rising vote of thanks was given Henry Lansburgh for his gift of a large American flag to Pentalfa Lodge.



WITH THE STRONGER.

TEA PARTY GIVES JOY TO MANY CHILDREN

Homeless Youngsters Will Long Remember Pleasures Afforded Them Yesterday.

Clad once more in their everyday gingham dresses the children of the Washington Founding Home today cherished ecstatic memories of ice cream, cake, and the hundreds of visitors who came to their tea yesterday afternoon.

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GRAND LODGE VISITS PENTALPHA MASONS

Masonic Temple Scene of Large Gathering.

The annual visitation of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the District of Columbia was made to Pentalfa Lodge, No. 23, P. A. A. M., at Masonic Temple last night before one of the largest gatherings of the year.

The following program was provided: Selection, Hakeman's orchestra; vocal solo, Charles Meyers; specialty, L. S. Goldsmith and W. E. Fookes; pipe organ solo, Rolla G. Onyon; address, Rev. James Sherar Montgomery; selection, Hakeman's orchestra; remarks by A. R. Onyon, master Pentalfa Lodge, and W. S. Jermine, grand master.

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Today.
Lecture, "Nature's Power at Work," by Louis Armstrong, before Men's Brotherhood of Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church, at 8 p. m.
Speech, Stephen E. Kramer, "Sunday School Advent Offering for Diocesan Missions," at meeting of Sunday School Institute, 7:30 p. m.
Meeting, membership committee, Y. M. C. A., 8 p. m.
Meeting, executive and teaching forces of schools, in Central High School, discussion of a teachers' retirement law, auspices of High School Teachers' Union, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Civic Society of Washington, 1340 New York avenue northwest, 8 p. m.
Entertainment for blind in Library of Congress, harp recital by Mrs. Marmion Brodus, 8:15 p. m.
Meeting, Treasury Branch, Federal Employees' Union, G. A. R. Hall, 7:30 p. m.
Meeting, Columbia Historical Society, banquet hall, Sheraton Hotel, 8 p. m.
Entertainment, Home Club, moving pictures, 8:15 p. m.
Meeting, Federal Watchmen's Union, Typographical Temple, 8 p. m.
Address, Dr. R. W. Barnell, "New Social Consciousness of Negro," before Heister Library and Historical Association, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Episcopalian Society, to debate enactment of Federal naturalization laws, at G. W. U., 8 p. m.
Meeting, Women's Relief Association, at 1460 Lafayette street northwest, 8 p. m.
Lecture, Carroll Law Club, of Georgetown University, to debate eight-hour law, at 8 p. m.
Entertainment, Delta Chapter Phi Mu Sigma Fraternity, at Douglas M. E. Church, 8:15 p. m.
Snicker and buffet lunch, President's Own Garrison, No. 101, Army and Navy Union, at G. A. R. Hall, 8 p. m.
Meeting, student council, G. W. U., to consider vigorous routing, George Washington University, in law school, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Troop 11, "President's Own," 1st Cavalry Squadron, N. G. D. C., into U. S. National Guard, 1 Street Army, 8 p. m.
Meeting, membership committee, Y. W. C. A., at 8 p. m.
Meeting, Armistice, No. 25, National, No. 12, Lafayette, No. 19, LaFayette, No. 5, Royal Arch, Columbia Lodge of Perfection, Scottish Rite, 8 p. m.
Old Fellows—Amity, No. 27, Washington, No. 6, Golden Rule, No. 21, Mount Pleasant, No. 28, Fidelity, No. 7, Rebekah, No. 1, Eastern Star, No. 1, Excelsior, No. 14, Capital, No. 24, Myrtle, No. 23, National Union—Presidents' Council, Knights of Columbus, 10 p. m.
R. E. O. Elks—Membership committee, 10 p. m.
Amusements.
Belasco-Ballet Russe, 8:15 p. m.
National Theatre, 8:15 p. m.
R. F. Keith's Vaudeville, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Ball—"Little Girl God Forgot," 8:15 p. m.
Gayety-Burlesque, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Lyceum-Burlesque, 8:15 and 8:45 p. m.
Cosmos-Vaudeville, 1:30 to 11 p. m.
Loew's Columbia-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Garden-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Strand-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Tomorrow.
Meeting, Irish History Study Club, at 1345 Fourth street northwest, 8 p. m.
Meeting, French Section, at 1920 Twenty-third street, 8 p. m.
Concert, supplies Ladies' Co-operative Improvement Society, of Silver Spring, Md., benefit Social Service League of Montgomery county, 8 p. m.
Concert, Washington College of Music, at Gurley Memorial Presbyterian Church, 8:15 p. m.
Masonic-Harmony, No. 17, Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters; No. 1, Eastern Star, No. 1, Excelsior, No. 14, Capital, No. 24, Myrtle, No. 23, National Union—Presidents' Council, Knights of Columbus, 10 p. m.
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R. E. O. Elks—Membership committee, 10 p. m.
Patriotic Order of Americans—Camp No. 1 and No. 2, 10 p. m.
Lecture, "Samoa and Other Islands of the South Seas," by F. B. Hyde, at T. Myers Mason House, 11:30 a. m.
Address, "Safety-First," by Raymond W. Pullman, Superintendent of Police, at meeting of Washington Safety First Council, Public Library, 8 p. m.
Interpretative dancing, Miss Norma Schwen-dener and Elling H. Henson, before Young Women's Christian Association, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Central Northwest Citizens' Civic Association, at Young Men's Christian Association, 8 p. m.
Speech, John Barrett, "Personal Impressions of European War and Its Battle Front," before "Commons" Club, 12:30 p. m.
Meeting, Town Council of Takoma Park, discussion of W. & M. R. request, 8 p. m.
Lecture, "Mark Twain," by Hubert William A. Quicke, at Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, 8 p. m.

SOCIALIST'S PEACE CRY STIRS GERMANY

Herr Scheidemann Quotes Alleged Views of the Imperial Chancellor.

LONDON, Nov. 21.—Much excitement has been caused in Germany by the publication in Vorwarts, the Socialist organ, of an exceptionally frank plea for peace by Herr Scheidemann, head of the section of Socialists in the Reichstag, who have upheld the Kaiser since the beginning of the war.

The article is headed, "Defense and Peace," and says:

"An attitude of absolute victory is impossible for either side. It is well that we recognize this and make up our minds that we must be satisfied if we can keep the enemy at bay. Who therefore should peace not be made?"

Alleged Views of Chancellor.
"We can summarize the imperial chancellor's views on peace as follows:

"First, Germany never wanted war.

"Second, this war is for Germany merely a defensive war.

"Third, Germany never intended to annex Belgium.

"Fourth, Germany is ready at any moment to join an international peace league.

"Surely this is a sufficient basis for peace negotiations. If our enemies do not really wish to destroy us, then there is no necessity for them to continue the war. If the enemy now throws aside the neutral offer of mediation, which cannot be long in coming, they will be responsible for the continuation of the slaughter. Must we for the third time spend Christmas on the battlefield? If so, it will be neither our fault nor our wish."

Storm of Protest.
The article has brought forth a storm of protest. Count von Reventlow, writing in the Norddeutsche Zeitung, calls the article tantamount to treason, and urges Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to disavow immediately the sentiments and discredit the author. The Taekliche Rundschau says that it is a public scandal that Herr Scheidemann should pretend to speak for the chancellor. The National Korrespondenz declares no peace is possible until England is definitely defeated. It says:

"We are able upon the highest authority to discredit the absurd legend according to which Field Marshal von Hindenburg is declared personally to have advocated mild treatment of England, and to have deprecated further raids by our Zeppelins and an extension of submarine warfare. We are able to state that the field marshal, speaking recently to an Austrian visitor, said: 'In 1866, when Prussia fought Austria, we had a duel with a chivalrous foe. In 1870, when we fought France, we were forced to punish a naughty street boy, but today we have to knock down a scoundrel!'"